DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 328 230 IR 014 829

AUTHOR Robertson, Elton
TITLE Pennsylvania In-Service Technology Education: Past, Present and Future. A Status Report of the Regional Computer Resource Center at Temple University.
PUB DATE 90
NOTE 5p.; Paper presented at the Conference on Technology and Education (7th, Brussels, Belgium, March 20-22, 1990).
PUB TYPE Speeches/Conference Papers (150)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS *Computer Assisted Instruction; Educational Technology; Elementary Secondary Education; *Inservice Teacher Education; Microcomputers; Postsecondary Education; *Professional Development; State Programs; Teacher Improvement; *Teacher Workshops
IDENTIFIERS *Pennsylvania

ABSTRACT

In 1984, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania passed the Information Technology Education Act, which created 14 Information Technology Education for the Commonwealth (ITEC) centers. The purpose of the ITEC centers was to assist teachers in using and improving their use of microcomputers in their own classrooms by training them in instructional uses of computers, software evaluation, and programming. All Pennsylvania teachers, K-12, were eligible to apply for professional development courses, workshops, and other computer related services. After 4 years of successful inservice training the program was extended with the added focus of providing advanced skills training in the planning for and integrating of computer technology into existing curricula. The program has now expanded to include interactive video, video overlay, CD-ROM, advanced computer graphics, and computer/MIDI music capabilities. (DB)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

ED328230

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

☐ This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.

☐ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.

• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official OERI position or policy.

PENNSYLVANIA IN-SERVICE TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION: Past, Present and Future

A Status Report of the Regional Computer Resource Center at Temple University

by

Elton Robertson

1990

IR014829

"PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY

Elton Robertson

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)."

Pennsylvania In-Service Technology Education:
Past, Present and Future.
A Status Report of the Regional Computer Resource Center at Temple University

Dr. Elton Robertson*

Abstract

One of the problems associated with the use of new and emerging technologies involves the reeducation of teachers and school administrators presently employed. In 1984, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania passed the Information Technology Education Act, which created 14 ITEC Centers to assist teachers in in using microcomputers in their own classrooms by training them in instructional uses of computers, software evaluation and programming. This status report provides insight into the Regional Computer resource Center at Temple University and one approach to the problem of continuing in-service education in the use of newer technologies for teachers.

Introduction

Today's technology has provided us with new ways to facilitate the exchange of information, to control our environment, to manage our time. Our lives and our lifestyles are becoming more dependent on technology. Making possible this Age of Information is the computer. In the field of education, keeping up-to-date on the latest technology is not easy. For teachers, using new technology to help meet tier needs, and needs of their students is essential in order to develop learners and citizens for the 21st Century.

A solution

In 1982, as part of a continuing program of service to Pennsylvania teachers, the Pennsylvania Science Teachers' Association conducted a needs assessment survey. The results showed that although modern educational technology was available, there was a lack of teacher training which made the use of these technological tools rather difficult.

Recognizing the need of the educators to be informed about the latest in computer hardware, software and their classroom applications, a commitment was made. Working the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency, leaders of the Pennsylvania Science Teachers' Association developed a plan to fund a project that would provide Educational Technology Resources for the educators of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

This plan, called Computer Orientation for Reshaping Education in Science, or CORES, was implemented as a part of PHEAA's Pennsylvania Science Teacher Education Program in the 1983-84 school year. It resulted in computer education courses for teachers which were offered throughout the commonwealth. The CORES courses were designed to provide teachers with

*Professor of Educational Media, College of Education, Temple University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA, and Director of the Regional Computer Resource Center at Temple University, one of 14 such centers located throughout Pennsylvania.

experience in BASIC programming, educational software evaluation, and implementation of microcomputers in an educational setting.

The success of these early efforts was watched with interest by members of Pennsylvania's House of Representatives. On July 10, 1984, the Pennsylvania General Assembly passed Act 145 the Information Technology Education Act, which resulted in the Information Technology Education for the Commonwealth program, or ITEC.

In creating the ITEC program, the Pennsylvania legislature designed PHEAA as administrator, and set five goals:

- 4 provide computer information training for teachers
- 4 instruct educators in the design of computer oriented curricula for schools
- 4 assist teachers and administrators in the evaluation of currently available educational software and hardware
- 4 aid in administering grants to school districts for the purchase of educational computing hardware and software
- 4 assist in coordinating the purchase of computer hardware and software for Pennsylvania's schools.

The Present

Currently all Pennsylvania teachers, grades K - 12 in public, private and parochial schools are eligible to apply for courses (ITEC I for Elementary Teachers and ITEC I for Secondary Teachers), workshops, and other computer related services. Funding is provided by the Pennsylvania General Assembly, and administered by the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency. Three credit graduate level courses are offered on a scholarship basis.

The future

After a highly successful four years of in-service training, the legislation to fund the program was extended for four more years. In addition to the current focus of raising the basic computer skills of teachers, a new focus was added: providing advanced skills training in the planning for and integrating computer technology into the existing curriculum through ITEC II. Selected teachers who have had a background in instructional uses of computers through ITEC I or other experiences and have shown a leadership role in working within their schools in the area of integrating computers into the curriculum will be selected for advanced training, and return to their schools to help other teachers implement the use of computers.

In addition to ITEC II Training, the center is expanding facilities to include Interactive Video, Video overlay, CD-ROM, Advanced Computer Graphics, and Computer/MIDI Music capabilities.

Further Information

Course content, workshop topics and information on other services, funding and hardware and software currently in the library is available by contacting the center at:

Regional Computer Resource Center
Ritter Hall Room 308, College of Education
Temple University
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA